



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the Mexican volcanoes by more than 2,000 feet in altitude and South America has still higher summits. Mr. Winter accuses Prescott of a merely fragmentary knowledge of older literature on Mexico, but it would be well for him if he had only a part of it or, at least, part of the honest critical spirit which Prescott displayed for his time. On the other hand, we find, at the close of the first chapter, the excellent remark: "Things cannot be changed to Anglo-Saxon standards in a year, or two years, or even a generation. To Americanize Mexico will be a difficult, if not an impossible undertaking, and there are no signs of such a transition. Americans who live there fall into Mexican ways and moral standards more frequently than Mexicans are converted to the American point of view. The influence of traditions, customs and climate, and the centuries-old habit of letting the morrow take care of itself is too great to be overcome." It is very gratifying to meet with such an absolutely true, fair and practical appreciation, which is very rarely if ever found in other writings upon Mexico, and it shows that the author is an honest and sincere writer.

In perusing this charming book one is tempted to become very partial and pass over in silence its errors and misstatements. Although these errors are numerous it is the best popular book so far written on contemporaneous Mexico. Being devoted to "Mexico and her people of to-day," it must be mentioned, in order not to appear too partial, that the information given about primitive Mexico, the Spanish colonial times and some anthropological features of the Indians would have been acceptable half a century ago.

It is, for instance, a matter of the past to believe in the affinities between the Indian languages of Mexico and those of Japan and China. The features of the Indian occasionally resemble Asiatic types and, not long ago, the Indian in general was regarded, from a physical standpoint, as a so-called Mongol; but it is "out of date" to generalize and emphasize such points of accidental resemblance.

An error of a geographical nature which Mr. Winter commits in various places is to be noted. He limits the *tierra templada* of Mexico to a zone between 3,000 and 6,000 feet above sea-level. The upper limit of that belt is much higher. The City of Mexico, which lies nearly 7,500 feet above the ocean, still belongs to the temperate belt, and toward the south this naturally rises.

Each chapter may be picked out at will and read without connection with the others, as each forms, so to speak, an independent unit. And yet there is logical sequence through the book. The descriptions of nature are often poetic, always attractive, and never bombastic. The style is agreeably concise, and the author often displays the happy and not common faculty of characterizing, in a pointed manner and a few words, what he relates or describes.

Illustrations are numerous and very good. They are not the hackneyed pictures which we are beginning to accustom ourselves to find in books on Mexican topics. The map of Mexico is of moderate accuracy and rather indifferent execution.

A. F. B.

The France of To-day. By Barrett Wendell. 379 pp. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.

At this time, when literature is largely composed of illustrations, it is almost refreshing to find a book without pictures, not even that of the author. But if in the present instance the volume is exclusively occupied by text, that text is so florid and often so entangled that we almost regret the absence of pictures which

might, had the subject permitted, have simplified the task of illustration in words. We must not forget, however, that the eight chapters into which the book is divided are so many separate lectures, and that what may be listened to with intense interest and even delight, is sometimes very dull reading, the personality of the lecturer not being present to convey the proper impression. The reverse also takes place. Thus the sermons of the celebrated Vinet are admirable when read, whereas to listen to them inspired the hearer with but one idea: that of speedy removal from the place where they were delivered.

The subject of these lectures might be called a modern Ethnography of France, and, as such, but indirectly related to geographical problems; but while the treatment is lengthy and tiresome in form to the reader, the substance is rich in thought, knowledge, and accurate observation. The author is fair, just, and mild in his appreciations, conciliatory in his views, and he has well grasped the influence of historic development upon ideas and events.

While we have to wish the reader considerable patience in studying the work, we do so with the conviction that the patience will be richly rewarded.

A. F. B.

Au vieux pays de France, Excursions de Vacances dans le bassin de la Loire, Touraine, Anjou, Berry, Sologne, Vendée et Bretagne. Par Louis Rousselet. 320 pp., 137 gravures. Librairie Hachette et Cie., Paris, 1906.

Upon a superficial glance through this book one might be tempted to recall the picture of a band of tourists running at full speed the gauntlet of European art-galleries. But first impressions are often misleading, and this would be the case in the present instance. Under the pretext (so to say) of rendering account of a swift bicyclistic journey through a part of central France, the author conveys a wealth of information on the topography, archæology and history of that region, of the highest interest and importance to the serious reader. What creates the impression of haste in description arises from the logical terseness and precision which enable a writer so thoroughly master of his native tongue as Mr. Rousselet to condense in a few paragraphs more than an ordinary pamphlet could express. Hence, the purely topographical part is in excess of the far more fascinating descriptions of architectural remains and historical events. Like the landscape through which the author and his companions pass, which, though devoid of mountain scenery, is agreeably broken by the constant view of towering castles, stately manors, ruined monasteries and lofty churches, so the inevitable monotony of description of the country and thoroughfares is charmingly varied at intervals by that of the venerable monuments of bygone days.

While the country thus encompassed is justly named by the author the "Valley of the Loire," it is subdivided into four regions: the valley from Blois to the coast near Nantes; the plateaux of the Sologne; the Berry and the valley of the Indre; the country from Tours to Vierzon in the valley of the Cher,—the valley of the Loire as far as Beauce; embracing, that is to say, Touraine, Anjou and even parts of the Vendée, or "Old" France.

The observations of Mr. Rousselet also extend to the commerce and industry of the country. There are no dreary statistics, but pictures of the agriculture and the horticulture are pleasingly varied with description of the few industries. The lake of Grand-Lieu, alternately changed from a fertile field into a basin abounding with fish, and back again, arrests attention, and the great slate quarries west